

Kennett, PA — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee, yesterday spoke to members of the Kennett Square Rotary Club about the importance of small business in the region.

Congressman Sestak spoke about how the last election was truly about how the nation needed to work together in a bipartisan way to reprioritize our national investments. He emphasized we must focus more on affordable, accessible, adequate healthcare and a high quality education in order to lead to the right workforce for an economy that can reverse the \$9 trillion in debt that we have incurred over the last 6 years. While Congressman Sestak talked about each of these issues, he then went on specifically to talk about small businesses, which create almost all new jobs and how we need to attract the right businesses to the district with the well trained and educated workforce.

“Over the last 3 years, we have lost approximately 600 small businesses in our region and one out of five manufacturing establishments,” said Congressman Sestak. “My job in Washington is to do everything I can at the federal level to boost our region’s economy and create more good-paying jobs. We want our kids to be able to stay here and raise their families.”

Congressman Sestak has a strong commitment to creating jobs and helping small business. As Vice Chairman of the Small Business Committee, Rep. Sestak has worked to support new and small businesses through open access to loans, credit and capital, advocates fair and true tax relief for small business, and work to reduce onerous regulations and paperwork. Congressman Sestak cosponsored the Family Small Business Tax Fairness Act (H.R. 868) to streamline small business joint-tax filings. He also voted in favor of the H.R. 976, Small Business Tax Relief Act--a bipartisan bill with \$1.3 billion in tax cuts to help small businesses invest in new equipment and hire new workers.

Congressman Sestak’s most recent piece of legislation passed in committee – the Small Business Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007 (H.R. 2359) - enhances two critical Small Business Administration (SBA) Entrepreneurial Development programs: Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) and the Service Corps for Retired Executives (SCORE).

“These Small Business Administration programs are so important to local businesses,” said

Congressman Sestak. "We know that entrepreneurial development assistance programs work. Businesses who receive SBA entrepreneurial assistance are twice as likely to succeed. In addition, every federal dollar spent on entrepreneurial development generates seven dollars in increased tax revenue."

Congressman Sestak recently held two Economic Summits to assist businesses in the district. The first Economic Development Summit brought together several hundred stakeholders from across the District to participate in discussions to address the key issues facing workforce development, access to capital, business development and growth, community economic development, and economic development strategies. The second summit focused on encouraging economic development by connecting local businesses with federal, state, and local resources and programs.

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Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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